United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1061
20 January 1992

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- United Nations to participate in forthcoming multilateral Middle East peace conference in Moscow if "invited to attend as a full-fledged participant", according to United Nations spokesman.

- Lebanon asks Security Council to extend mandate of United Nations Interim Force (UNIFIL) in that country for another six months, until end of July.

- Security Council holds consultations to consider the question of Libya.

- Secretary-General appoints Brigadier General Victor Suanzes Pardo of Spain as Chief Military Observer and commander of military division of United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL).

- Governing Council of International Fund for Agricultural Development to hold fifteenth session in Rome from 21 to 23 January.

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Spokesman François Giuliani said today in a statement that the United Nations would participate in the forthcoming multilateral meeting of the Middle East peace conference, scheduled to take place in Moscow, provided the Organization was "invited to attend as a full-fledged participant".

The statement was made in reply to questions by correspondents about the meeting between Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali and United States Secretary of State James A. Baker, in Mexico on Friday, 17 January, on the role of the United Nations in the search for solution to the Middle East crisis.

Mr. Giuliani said the United Nations had always played "a useful role" in the search for peace in the Middle East and would continue to do so until a just and lasting solution had been found.

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Lebanon has asked the Security Council to extend the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in that country (UNIFIL) for another six months, until 31 July.

In a letter to the Secretary-General, dated 17 January, the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations, Khalil Makkawi, said the presence of UNIFIL continued to remain of utmost necessity to provide assistance and international support for the civilian population faced with "the brutal and arbitrary nature" of the Israeli occupation in the southern part the country. The Lebanese Government called upon the Council to take "new and unprecedented steps" to bring an end to the violence committed by the Israeli authorities and to ensure the withdrawal of Israeli forces from that area.

Mr. Makkawi noted that there existed a "perfect coordination" between the command of UNIFIL and the Lebanese Army and that the two Forces enjoyed a "constructive relationship on the highest level". Consultations were currently under way to ascertain the best way in which the Lebanese Army could take over additional areas from UNIFIL, he said.

In a related development, the Secretary-General has accepted an offer from the Government of Poland to provide the medical unit of UNIFIL. Poland is replacing Sweden, which has been responsible for the medical component of the Force since 1980 and has informed the United Nations that it was unable to maintain that contribution.
(S/23435) (S/23439)

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The Security Council held consultations this afternoon regarding allegations of Libya's involvement in the destruction of Pan American Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland and UTA Flight 776.

The Council was scheduled to convene in a formal meeting later tonight to consider a draft resolution on that topic sponsored by France, the United Kingdom and the United States.

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The Secretary-General has informed the Security Council, in a letter dated 16 January, of his intention to appoint Brigadier General Victor Suanzes Pardo of Spain as Chief Military Observer and commander of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL).

The Brigadier General served as Chief Military Observer of the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA), until the mandate of the Force was terminated on Friday, 17 January.
(23433)

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New strategies for the economic advancement of rural women will be considered be the Governing Council of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), at its fifteenth session to be held in Rome from 21 to 23 January. IFAD is seeking the Governing Council's approval of a long-term, international commitment to confront obstacles facing rural women and to place their concerns at the top of the development agenda.

Also before the Council for approval will be IFAD's programme of work for 1992, amounting to approximately $330 million in project loans and technical assistance grants.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1062
21 January 1992

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Security Council urges Libya to provide "full and effective" response to requests for cooperation in establishing responsibility for terrorist acts against Pan Am flight 103 and UTA flight 772.

- Secretary-General reiterates his deep concern at escalating violence in Somalia, which, he says, "has growing implications for Horn of Africa".

- Secretary-General says both sides in Cyprus welcome proposal to have his representatives continue discussions on the island in early February.

- United Nations Development Programme to assist Government of El Salvador in setting up national civilian police force as part of the country's reconstruction programme.

- Among priorities of Committee on Discrimination against Women this year is elimination of discrimination by law and in practice, according to Director of Division for Advancement of Women.

* * *

The Security Council today voted unanimously to condemn the destruction of Pam Am flight 103 and UTA flight 772 and the resulting loss of hundreds of lives, and strongly deplored the fact that the Libyan Government has not yet responded effectively to the requests to cooperate fully in establishing responsability for the terrorist acts that led to the destruction of the aircraft.

The 15-member Council also urged the Libyan Government to provide immediately "a full and effective response" to those requests, as a means to contribute to the elimination of international terrorism and it requested the Secretary-General to seek the cooperation of Libya to do so.

The Council took that action by adopting resolution 731 (1992) in which it expressed concern and disturbance by the "worldwide persistence of acts of international terrorism in all its forms, which endanger or take innocent lives, have a deleterious effect on international relations and jeopardize the security of States".

(more)

For information media—not an official record

The Council also expressed deep concern over results of investigations which implicated officials of the Libyan Government, and which are contained in Security Council documents. The documents include also the requests addressed to the Libyan authorities by France, the United Kingdom and the United States, in connection with the legal procedures related to these attacks. Four letters from Libya were also before the Council.

By its decision, the Council further reaffirmed its resolution 286 (1970) and resolution 635 (1989), in which it had called on States to take all possible legal steps to prevent any interference with international civil air travel and to cooperate in preventing all acts of terrorism.

Speaking to correspondents following the meeting, Council President Sir David Hannay called the adoption of the resolution "very encouraging" and said it was sending a clear message to the Libyan Government to cooperate fully and effectively with the requests by France, the United Kingdom and the United States in investigating the "horrific acts of terrorism". The Council President said he hoped for "prompt action" by the Libyans in response to the Council's decision, although no timeframe had been set.

The Council was scheduled to hold consultation this afternoon on the situation in Somalia and Cambodia, respectively.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has reiterated his deep concern at the escalating violence in Somalia, which has taken an increasingly heavy toll on the population and which, he said, "has growing implications for the Horn of Africa".

In a statement through his spokesman yesterday, Mr. Boutros-Ghali said he had carefully studied the report of his envoy to Somalia, Under-Secretary-General James O.C. Jonah, and had been conducting consultations with members of the Security Council with a view to appropriate Council action on the cessation of hostilities in the capital.

According to the statement, Mr. Boutros-Ghali had also met with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), Salim A. Salim, in an exchange of views on how best to achieve cooperation between the United Nations and the OAU on the situation.

Reaffirming the link between a stable situation in Somalia and the delivery of humanitarian assistance, the Secretary-General said arrangements were now being drawn up by United Nations agencies to launch large scale humanitarian assistance programmes, once the parties agree to end the hostilities.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met today and yesterday with President George Vassiliou, the leader of the Greek Cypriot Community, and with Rauf Denktash, the leader of the Turkish Cypriot Community.

(more)

In a statement through his spokesman today, Mr. Boutros-Ghali said the discussions had offered a useful opportunity to review the Cyprus question. He stressed the importance of maintaining the momentum which had been achieved last year and of proceeding expeditiously to complete the set of ideas of an overall framework agreement. Both leaders responded positively to the Secretary-General's proposal to have his representatives resume the discussions with the two sides in Cyprus in early February.

The Secretary-General has also received letters from the Prime Ministers of Greece and Turkey supporting the resumption of the talks and agreeing to meet with his representatives.

* * *

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has announced that it will help the Government of El Salvador set up a national civilian police force, as part of the country's reconstruction programme.

In what has been described as an "unprecedented move", UNDP's Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, Fernando Zumbado, explained that the Agency had gone beyond its conventional mandate of providing technical assistance for development to meet security needs of the Salvadorians.

More than 5,000 police cadres are to be trained over a two-year period with UNDP support, at an estimated cost of $6 million. The funds will be raised through an appeal to the international community.

The new civil police force in El Salvador will replace the present one, in keeping with the terms of the cease-fire agreement signed on January 16 between the Government of El Salvador and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN). It is expected to enforce law and order, while guaranteeing the rights and freedoms of the citizens of El Salvador within a democratic framework.

* * *

One of the priorities of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women this year was the elimination of de jure and de facto discrimination, the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women, Chafika Meslem, told the Committee yesterday. The gap between law and practice was most blatant in that area and it was necessary to inform women of their rights. The Division this year would organize a group of experts to facilitate that objective, she said.

As it began its two-week session yesterday, the Committee considered the initial report of Barbados on measures it has taken as a State party to implement the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

The representative of Barbados, Marva Alleyne, told the Committee that women in her country, who constituted a majority of the voting population, enjoyed general legal protection. They had to contend however with widespread teenage pregnancy and headed some 43 per cent of the nation's households.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1063
22 January 1992

W E D N E S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

- Secretary-General's Special Representative for Cambodia reaffirms, upon arrival in Phnom Penh, his commitment to ensure effective functioning of United Nations Transition Authority in that country, as soon as possible.

- Prime Minister of Somalia repeats his appeal to Security Council for formal meeting on deteriorating situation in Mogadiscio.

- Lebanon condemns, in letter to Secretary-General, continuing attacks by Israel on Lebanese villagers and their property in southern part of country.

- Conference on Disarmament begins ten-week 1992 session in Geneva.

- Chairman of Global Environment Facility briefs correspondents at Headquarters about Facility's programme for helping developing countries deal with environmental issues.

- European Community begins 1992 as full member of Food and Agriculture Organization following formal admission by Agency's Governing body last November.

* * *

The Secretary-General's Special Representative for Cambodia, Yasushi Akashi, arrived today in the capital city of Phom Penh.

In a short statement upon his arrival, Mr. Akashi reiterated his commitment to ensure the effective deployment of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) without delay, and stressed that, in view of the difficult financial situation of the United Nations, it was necessary that funds for the mission be provided immediately, so that the operation could start as soon as possible.

The Special Representative met later today with Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State and President of the Supreme National Council (SNC) of Cambodia,

(more)

For information media—not an official record

with whom he reviewed all the aspects of the implementation of the Paris Agreements of 23 October, 1991.

Tomorrow, Mr. Akashi will meet with Foreign Minister of Cambodia Nor Namhong and with the President of Democratic Kampuchea, Khieu Samphan.

* * *

The Prime Minister of Somalia, Omer Arteh Ghalib, has appealed to the Security Council for its consideration of the deteriorating situation in the capital city of Mogadiscio.

In a letter addressed to the Secretary-General, dated 20 January, Mr. Ghalib said he was "confident that with the background and knowledge of the new Secretary-General" and his prior commitment to reconciliation in Somalia, the Security Council would come up with a programme of effective action to end the fighting and contribute to cementing peace and stability in the country.

The letter, which was transmitted by Chargé d'affaires Fartun Mohamed Hassan, follows a similar request from the Somali Prime Minister, dated 15 December 1991.
(S.23445)

* * *

Lebanon has condemned what it calls, the "latest acts of Israeli aggression" against Lebanese villagers and their property in the southern part of the country.

In a letter to the Secretary-General, yesterday, the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations, Khalil Makkawi, said Israel had continued bombing Tebnin, Haris, Hadatha and Aita El-Jabal. It had also besieged Rashaf, situated outside the border area. He said that at least 80 per cent of the inhabitants had been forced to flee those villages and that Israel had been able to "incorporate" Rashaf into the area occupied by Israel by cutting off the existing road and building a new one.

Mr. Makkawi said Lebanon wished to alert the international community to the fact that Israel was seeking to extend the zone which it occupies in Lebanese territory.
(S/23453)

* * *

The Conference on Disarmament began yesterday in Geneva its 1992 session, which will last approximately ten weeks.

The General Assembly adopted a series of resolutions, at its forty-sixth session, entrusting specific responsibilities to the Conference. Among other things, the Assembly welcomed the progress in the negotiations on the draft convention banning all chemical weapons and urged the Conference to intensify its work with a view to completing the negotiations in 1992.

(more)

Another text reaffirmed the particular responsibilities of the Conference in the negotiation of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty. It urged the nuclear-weapon States to agree promptly to appropriate verifiable and militarily significant interim measures, with a view to concluding such a treaty.

The world's single multilateral negotiating body on disarmament, the Conference consists of the five nuclear-weapon States -- China, France, Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States -- and members of other military significant States, as well as neutral and non-aligned countries which form the Group of 21. Non-members are invited, upon request, to participate in its work.

* * *

The Chairman of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Director of the World Bank's Environment Department, Mohamed El-Ashry, told correspondents today at a briefing at Headquarters that the GEF, which is a pilot programme for helping developing countries deal with environmental issues, was likely to be the focus of the third meeting of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Environment Conference in March.

He said that in the preparations for that Conference, scheduled for June in Rio de Janeiro, GEF had taken on particular importance as a funding mechanism for the global environment conventions, such as those on climate change and biodiversity now being negotiated.

A three-year experiment which began a year ago, the Facility provides grants for investment projects and technical assistance aimed at protecting the global environment and transferring environmentally sound technologies. Its work falls into four main areas: global warming, conservation of biological diversity, protection of international waters from pollution and protection of the ozone layer.

Responsibility for implementing the GEF is shared between the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). In initiating the proposal one year ago, the Facility was sponsored by the French and German Governments; today there are about 36 participating Governments and the budget is approximately $1.3 billion.

* * *

The European Economic Community (EEC) is now a full member of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), following a vote by the Agency's Governing body last November.

In a press release issued at Headquarters today, the EEC said that the admission represented a significant step for the Community at the United Nations, marking the first time that it had been accepted as a full-fledged member of any United Nations agency. Before becoming a full FAO participant, the EEC had been limited to "observer" status in the Agency's discussions and decisions, many of which involve areas of community competence.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1064
23 January 1992

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Security Council calls for immediate cease-fire in Mogadiscio and for increased United Nations humanitarian assistance to Somalia.

- Security Council recommends to General Assembly that Republic of Kazakhstan be admitted to United Nations membership; refers applications of Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan to Committee for Admission of New Members to United Nations.

- United Nations emergency assistance to former Soviet Republics confirmed at meeting in Washington D.C. on 22 to 23 January.

- Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding to travel to Belgrade on Saturday, 25 January, to help remove remaining obstacles for deployment of United Nations peace-keeping force in Yugoslavia.

- Donors pledge $6.7 million for assistance to some 350,000 displaced Cambodians on the Thai-Cambodian border.

- Governors of International Fund for Agricultural Development end three-day session in Rome; decides to hold World Summit for Women 25-26 February in Geneva.

- United Nations Seminar and NGO Symposium on Question of Palestine hears statements by Foreign Minister of Cyprus and Under-Secretary-General Ronald I. Spiers, among others.

* * *

The Security Council today called for an immediate cease-fire in the Somali capital, Mogadiscio, and for increased United Nations humanitarian assistance to the civilian population.

The Council took that action by adopting unanimously a resolution introduced by Cape Verde and sponsored by the three African members of the Council.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

The Prime Minister of Somalia, Omer Arteh Ghalib, has repeatedly appealed to the Council, in letters addressed to the Secretary-General, to "come up with a programme of effective action to end the fighting" and restore peace in Somalia.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali had expressed concern earlier this week over the escalating violence in Somalia, which, he said, "had grave implications for the Horn of Africa".

* * *

The Security Council recommended to the General Assembly this evening that the Republic of Kazakhstan be admitted to membership in the United Nations. The Council took that action, without a vote, in the first of five series of meetings on admission of new members.

In four other meetings, the Council referred action on the applications of Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan to the Committee on the Admission of New Members of teh United Nations.

Council President Sir David Hannay of the United Kingdom recommended that the Committee take up the applications at a meeting tomorrow, 24 January.

* * *

The United Nations has confirmed that it will assist in the immediate emergency response to the difficulties facing the people of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the former Soviet Union.

At a meeting today and yesterday in Washington D.C., called by United States Secretary of State James A. Baker, the Foreign Ministers of forty-eight nations agreed to organize global humanitarian efforts, focusing on food, medicine, housing, energy and short-term technical assistance needs.

It was noted at the meeting that the United Nations has already launched a series of activities related to energy efficiency, conservation, clean coal technology and the relationship between energy, environment and sustainable development, among other things.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) presented a proposal to coordinate technical assistance and help lay the groundwork for administrative reform, private enterprise development, and economic and banking reform. UNDP Administrator William H. Draper III said the Programme had forty-one years of experience in providing development assistance to struggling governments in their transition towards democracy.

* * *

Spokesman François Giuliani told correspondents today that Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali had decided to send

(more)

Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding to Yugoslavia to help remove the remaining obstacles for the deployment of a United Nations peace-keeping operation in that country.

The Secretary-General met earlier today with the Serbian member of the Federal Yugoslavian Presidency and Chairman of the State Committee for Cooperation with the United Nations on Peace-keeping Matters, Mr. B. Jovic, who expressed to the Secretary-General his wish to have a United Nations peace-keeping force deployed in Yugoslavia. Mr. Boutros-Ghali, in turn, expressed his desire to be as helpful as possible and to maintain the present momentum.

The Spokesman said that Mr. Goulding would arrive in Belgrade on Saturday, 25 January, where he would make contact with the various parties as well as with the United Nations military liaison officers who are already in Yugoslavia. The Secretary-General had stressed the importance of the cooperation with the European Economic Community (EEC) and in particular the necessity to make progress in the EEC-sponsored Conference on Yugoslavia.

In separate news today, the Spokesman told correspondents that the Secretary-General had received the Minister for Strategic Industries of Libya and Head of the Libyan Delegation, Jadallah Talhi, who brought a message from his Government saying that Libya would cooperate with the Secretary-General in the mission entrusted to him by the Security Council.

The Council had urged Libya, in a unanimous resolution earlier this week, to provide "full and effective" response to requests for cooperation in establishing responsibility for the terrorist acts against the Pan Am flight 103 and UTA flight 772.

* * *

Donor nations have pledged almost $6.7 million for the United Nations Border Relief Operation (UNBRO) and programmes assisting some 350,000 displaced persons along the Thai-Cambodian border. The pledges were made yesterday at a meeting of donors to the Cambodian Humanitarian Assistance Programmes.

In a statement at the meeting, Shah A.M.S. Kibria, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Coordination of Cambodian Humanitarian Programmes, stressed the importance of continued support throughout the repatriation process, adding that removal of mines was an essential prerequisite to that process.

Also addressing the meeting, Fred Isler, a representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), said about 1200 people had been mutilated by mine accidents in 1991, which, added to the already 30,000 amputees in Cambodia, had placed the country as having the highest percentage of mine victims in the world.

The representative of Thailand told the meeting that some 700 members of the Royal Thai Army would participate in mine-clearing operations.

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Press Release DH/1064
23 January 1992

The three-day annual meeting of Governors of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) came to a close today in Rome.

Reporting from the Italian capital, a United Nations press officer said the 147-member Fund had agreed during its meeting that negotiations on a fourth replenishment of funds should go ahead during the next few months and be completed in time for next year's meeting.

During the session, delegations had praised IFAD's work in rehabilitating villages on the coast of Bangladesh whose farms had been destroyed by hurricanes and tidal waves. Delegates also noted that IFAD not only provided first aid for such disasters, but also the necessary assistance to enable the poor to become self-supporting. An example of this was the Special Project for Africa which IFAD has supported for the past four years in response to the desperate needs of the farming families displaced by continuous drought.

The press officer reported that, in response to research findings that more than half of the work done in agriculture in less developed countries is done by women, IFAD had been promoting a "World Summit for Women". The proposal was concentrating on the theme that rural women should be given the necessary economic power to enable them to carry out their heavy responsibility in the village of feeding the children, keeping the home and running at least half the farm.

More than 40 "First Ladies" would be taking part in this Summit, which is scheduled for 25-26 February in Geneva.

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The twenty-ninth United Nations Asian Seminar and Non-Governmental Organizations Symposium on the Question of Palestine is currently under way in Cyprus. Organized by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, this is the seventh seminar held in the Asian region.

Opening the seminar on Monday, 20 January, Foreign Minister of Cyprus George Iacovou said the question of Palestine was at the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict in the Middle East and had been a major concern of the United Nations for over 40 years. It presented one of the most serious challenges confronting the international community, he said. He called on Israel to fulfil all its obligations under the 1949 Geneva Convention to protect the Palestinians.

Representing Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali at the meeting, Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services, Ronald Spiers, called on the Palestinian and Israeli participants of the seminar to make use of this historic opportunity of meeting face-to-face to discuss their vital concerns and to try to identify and enlarge the parameters of mutual accommodation.

(more)

The seminar forms part of the Committee's efforts to promote a just and lasting settlement of the Palestinian question. The newly elected Committee Chairman, Keba Birane Cisse (Senegal), said the Committee had consistently stressed the necessity of a two-State solution decided upon by the General Assembly when it partitioned Palestine in 1947.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1065
24 January 1992

F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

♦ Secretary-General recommends to Security Council that it extend mandate of United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for another six months until 31 July; agreement reached on handover to Lebanese Government of western part of Ghanaian battalion sector.

♦ Secretary-General sends messages to fighting parties in Mogadiscio containing copies of Security Council resolution on Somalia adopted yesterday. In separate development, Vasily Safronchuk to travel to Libya to seek cooperation with that Government as requested in resolution 731 (1992).

♦ United Nations Asian Seminar and NGO symposium on Question of Palestine in Nicosia ends one-week session adopting declaration.

♦ Committee on Discrimination against Women takes up China's second periodic report.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended to the Security Council that it extend the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for another six months, until 31 July. The Secretary-General says that with the Arabs and the Israelis currently engaged in peace negotiations, UNIFIL's contribution to stability in the region remains important.

In his report to the Council, dated 21 January, Mr. Boutros-Ghali also announced that an agreement had been reached between the United Nations and the Lebanese Government on the handover to the Lebanese Government of the western part of the Ghanaian battalion sector of UNIFIL. The UNIFIL troops thus freed would be redeployed to the east and south, where there was a greater need for their presence.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

The Secretary-General reported that the last six months had been more difficult than preceding periods, both for UNIFIL and for the inhabitants of south Lebanon. Hostilities between Lebanese resistance groups and the Israeli Defence Force had intensified and the number of casualties had risen.

With regard to the financial situation of the Force, the Secretary-General noted that, at present, unpaid assessments to the Force amounted to some $264 million. He appealed to all member countries to pay their assessments promptly and in full and to clear all remaining arrears. (S/23452)

* * *

Spokesman François Giuliani told correspondents today that Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali had sent copies of the Security Council resolution, adopted yesterday evening, to the two fighting parties in Mogadiscio. That resolution called on all States to implement a weapons embargo against Somalia and urged the parties to the conflict to agree to a cease-fire. The Spokesman said United Nations officials in Nairobi would attempt to deliver these messages by hand to Mogadiscio.

Meanwhile,the Organization of African Unity (OAU) has expressed its readiness to cooperate with the United Nations in seeking a peaceful solution to the conflict in Somalia, in conformity with the Council resolution. In a press release issued at Headquarters today, OAU Secretary General, Salim Salim, renewed his appeal to the warring factions in Somalia "to heed the calls for an immediate cease-fire" so that humanitarian assistance could be channelled to the victims and a lasting and peaceful solution could be reached.

In separate news today, the Spokesman said the Secretary-General had asked Mr. Vasily Safronchuk, Under-Secretary-General in the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs, to travel to Libya, in pursuance of the Secretary-General mandate under the Security Council resolution adopted on Tuesday.

Mr. Safronchuk will leave today.

* * *

The seventh United Nations Asian Seminar and Non-Governmental Organizations Symposium on the Question of Palestine ended today in Nicosia, Cyprus, with the adoption of a Declaration reiterating the essential elements of a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the question of Palestine which includes the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Palestinian territory occupied since June 1967, including Jerusalem, and other occupied Arab territories.

Welcoming the convening on the Peace Conference on the Middle East, participants expressed hope that the talks would be successful in establishing peace in the region. They also expressed concern at the continuing settlement activity and land confiscation in the occupied territories, condemned the settlement of immigrants and Israeli citizens in the occupied Palestinian

(more)

territory and urged the Security Council and other international bodies to take appropriate action to address the problem.

* * *

The traditional preference for male children was a sentiment which had been held over from China's feudal past, according to Jin Yongjian, and the country's one child per family policy had resulted in no alteration in the proportion of male and female children in China.

The Chinese delegate was responding to questions on family planning yesterday, as the Committee on Discrimination against Women was examining China's second periodic report on efforts to further the aims of the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

Mr. Jin also told the Committee that his country had taken a number of steps to improve the status of women in an atmosphere of "political stability and economic prosperity". Outlining recent developments concerning women, he cited a proposed new law on the Protection of the Rights of Women, and told Committee members that his Government had also taken strict measures against criminal acts infringing on women's rights, including measures against prostitution and the kidnapping of women and children. Laws had also been enacted to protect women's rights in politics, employment, education, marriage and the family, he said.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1066
27 January 1992

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General announces that, in order to end conflict in Afghanistan, he is ready to organize a gathering of participants from as many segments as possible of Afghan society.

- Secretary-General informs Security Council of his intention to ask General Assembly for appropriation of $200 million, to prepare for the first phase of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

- United Nations inspection team confronted by some 40 demonstrators at their Baghdad hotel.

- A five-person mission scheduled to arrive in Baghdad today for talks with Iraqi authorities on compliance with Security Council resolutions.

- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) agrees to loan $8.5 million to Government of Benin to help fund Atacora Rural Development Project.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali issued a statement today assuring the Afghan people of his commitment to promote a political settlement to end the conflict in their country. With that purpose, he said, he was ready to organize a gathering, outside the region, of representatives from as many segments as possible of Afghan society, to agree upon steps leading to the establishment of a broad-based government through free and fair elections. He had asked his Personal Representative for Pakistan and Afghanistan, Benon Sevan, to undertake intensive consultations to finalize the necessary arrangements.

Citing the "horrendous" casualties of the conflict, including a million dead, two million disabled and two million displaced, he said it was imperative that the decade-long conflict now be brought to an end.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

He also called on all other governments to halt arms supplies and the financing of arms purchases to all sides in the Afghan conflict.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has informed the Security Council of his intention to submit a proposal to the General Assembly seeking an initial appropriation of $200 million, in order to prepare for the first phase of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

The information was conveyed in a letter to Security Council President, Sir David Hannay (United Kingdom), made public today. According to the Secretary-General's letter, on approval of the UNTAC implementation plan by the Council, the funds would become available for the procurement of accommodation, transportation, communication and other support equipment and services.

The full cost of deploying UNTAC has not yet been determined, the letter said, explaining that the amount would represent an assessment of initial requirements and would be taken into account against the full assessments to be levied against Member States, once the budget of UNTAC had been approved by the General Assembly. This approach, the Secretary-General said, would greatly facilitate the timely deployment of UNTAC and enhance prospects for the restoration of a durable peace in Cambodia.

The Secretary-General also pointed out that the President of the Supreme National Council, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the Cambodian parties and the international community had repeatedly stressed the need for the urgent deployment of UNTAC, in order to "prevent the erosion of the peace process".

In related news, the President of the Council, Sir David Hannay (United Kingdom), in a letter dated 24 January, said Members had been notified of the Secretary-General's proposal and welcomed his assurance to them that "a full and detailed breakdown" would be provided for the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) and the Fifth Committee.

* * *

As Iraqi police looked on today, 18 members of a United Nations inspection team were confronted by some 40 male demonstrators early this morning, in and outside their Baghdad hotel, as they arrived to conduct the seventh chemical and biological weapons inspection mission of the Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament.

According to a United Nations spokesman, team members, including Deputy Chief Inspector Karen Jansen, were jostled, shouted at and pinned against the wall of the lobby of the hotel, while others were trapped in a bus in front of the hotel, as demonstrators shouted slogans and jumped up and down on the United Nations vehicles. The inspectors eventually decided to force their way through the hostile crowd into the hotel. Iraqi police offered no assistance despite requests for intervention, saying later in response to inquiries, that they were not allowed to.

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The incident represented "a clear breach by Iraq of various special arrangements and United Nations Security Council resolutions concerning the immunities, and privileges, safety and access of the UN inspection team, in particular the status agreement of 14 May 1991 and United Nations Security Council Resolution 707 (1991)", the spokesman said.

Meanwhile, the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission, Rolf Ekeus, has informed the President of the Security Council and the Office of the Secretary-General of the incident. The seventh chemical and biological weapons inspection mission was scheduled to take place in Iraq from 27 January to 5 February.

* * *

A United Nations spokesman told correspondents today, that another mission was scheduled to arrive in Baghdad today for talks with Iraqi authorities on the need for fuller compliance with Security Council resolutions. The resolutions require Iraq to disclose detailed information concerning its weapons of mass destruction and related research industries.

The five-person team, headed by John Gee of Australia and Patrice Palanque of France, will specifically ask Iraq to come forward with more detailed information, as required under Security Council resolution 715 (1991), adopted on October 11, by which the Council approved plans for the long-term monitoring of the disarmament of Iraq. Iraq's failure to provide the requested information is viewed as a serious obstacle to the implementation and long-term monitoring and verification of Iraq's obligations under the relevant Security Council resolutions, the spokesman said. Twenty-six inspections have been carried out since the Commission was created by the cease-fire resolution (687), on 3 April, 1991.

* * *

More than half the cost of the second phase of the Atacora Rural Development Project in north-west Benin will be covered by a $8.52 million loan to the Government by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The loan agreement was signed in Rome today.

The IFAD estimates that over the six years of the project annual incremental production should reach 4,500 tonnes of tubers, 780 tonnes of meat products and 4,500 tonnes of cereals. The target population of 210,000 includes all the ethnic groups in the region and special provisions will be made to meet their economic and educational needs. Thirty percent of the funds from IFAD's credit scheme is to be reserved for women, who will also receive training in credit management, marketing techniques and agricultural development.

The signing of the agreement brings total IFAD assistance to Benin to over $32 million.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1067
28 January 1992

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General receives agreement from Interim Government of Somalia to fully comply with resolution 773 (1992); Chairman of United Somali Congress, in public statement, indicates his readiness to declare a cease-fire.

- Secretary-General's Special Representative for Cambodia holds meetings with Cambodian and Thai officials; scheduled to return to Headquarters on Thursday.

- Upon return from Libya, Secretary-General's Envoy to that country, Vasiliy Safronchuk, reports on meetings with Libyan officials.

- Security Council considers progress report of the Secretary-General on situation in Yugoslavia, including the possibility of deploying a United Nations peacekeeping force.

- Three disarmament proposals by Germany expressing deep concern about danger of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction made public at Headquarters last week.

* * *

The Interim Government of Somalia, in a reply to the Secretary-General, accepted yesterday the terms of the Security Council resolution 773 (1992), by which the Council, among other things, urged all parties to the conflict in Somalia to agree to a cease-fire, to promote the process of reconciliation and political settlement in the country. The Interim Government further indicated its willingness to fully comply with the provisions of the text.

In a public statement, General Mohammed Farah Aideed, Chairman of the Congress, indicated his readiness to declare a cease-fire.

The leaders of the Interim Government of Somalia and the United Somali Congress, as well as various factions, political groups and personalities involved in the conflict, had received copies of the resolution hand-delivered to them on instruction from the Secretary-General.

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For information media—not an official record

The Secretary-General is currently taking steps to coordinate further action on Somali problems with the Secretaries-General of the Organization of African Unity and the League of Arab States.

* * *

Yasushi Akashi, the Secretary-General's Special Representative on Cambodia, en route back to New York after a six-day trip to Cambodia, met in Bangkok today with the Thai Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Wichean Wattanakun. They discussed his country's involvement with the United Nations during the transition process in Cambodia, and issues dealing with refugees and de-mining. Later in the day Mr Akashi met with Son Sen, the Minister of Defense of Democratic Kampuchea. Mr Akashi is expected back in New York on Thursday, 30 January.

Before leaving Cambodia, Mr Akashi visited a refugee reception centre and a military liaison office of the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC) in Battambang.

Addressing a press conference before leaving Phnom Pehn on Sunday, Mr Akashi said that he had reviewed with members of the Supreme National Council (SNC) the assistance UNAMIC had been providing to maintain the cease-fire, and the expansion of its mandate to include training Cambodians in mine-clearance and the initiation of a de-mining programme.

At Headquarters yesterday the Secretary-General had informed the Security Council of his intention to ask the General Assembly for an initial appropriation of $200 million to prepare for the first phase of UNTAC.

* * *

The Secretary-General is considering today the report of Vasiliy Safronchuk, his Envoy to Libya, of his visit to that country and his meetings with Libyan officials last weekend. His mission was undertaken at the request of the Secretary-General, in accordance with Security Council resolution 731 (1992).

The resolution requested the Secretary-General "to seek the cooperation of the Libyan Government to provide a full and effective response" to the requests of Britain, France and the United States in establishing responsibility for the criminal acts in connection with the downing of Pan American Flight 103 and UTA Flight 772.

* * *

The Security Council held informal consultations this morning to consider a progress report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Yugoslavia. The document brought the Council up to date on the establishment of a military liaison office and on the work of Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding, who is currently in Yugoslavia working to clear the way for the deployment of a UN peacekeeping force.

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Following today's discussions, Council President Sir David Hannay said members had expressed support for the Secretary-General's approach to the deployment of the force. He said members felt the deployment could make "a real contribution to a peaceful solution in Yugoslavia" so long as the negotiating process in the European Community Conference on Yugoslavia was "maintained and pursued". The Council President added that United Nations and European Community activity on the Yugoslavia issue were "entirely complementary".

Last week, Dr. Boutros-Ghali had met separately with the Serbian Member of the Federal Yugoslavian Presidency and Chairman of the State Committee for Cooperation with the United Nations on peacekeeping matters, the Foreign Minister of Portugal representing the European Community and the Prime Minister of Croatia, all of whom had expressed their support for deployment of a UN peace-keeping force to Yugoslavia. The Secretary-General will report again to the Council following Mr. Goulding's return to New York tommorrow.

This morning, in consultations, the Council also took up its regular review of sanctions against Iraq, and later today members considered informally the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

* * *

Germany has made public a summary of three disarmament proposals put forward by Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher during a meeting at United Nations Headquarters last Thursday, 23 January, with Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. The proposals, outlined in a letter dated January 24, by Ambassador Detlev Graf Zu Rantzau to the Secretary-General, reflect the German Government's deep concern about the danger of a proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, "especially of the possible illegal spread and misuse of know-how concerning their development and production".

One calls for United Nations exploration of the creation of incentives for scientists and experts involved in the production of weapons of mass-destruction to use their knowledge for peaceful purposes, and suggests the establishment of an international foundation for peaceful technology to offer the scientists employment, research and training contracts.

A second proposal would have Member States enact legislation banning their nationals from participation in the development and production of weapons of mass-destruction, and recommends the development of an international convention providing for criminal prosecution of those nationals who do so.

A third proposal calls for sanctions against those States that try to procure material or technology for weapons of mass-destruction, saying the only body empowered to enact such sanctions is the Security Council, which could take up the matter of proliferation of such weapons as a threat to international peace and security.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1068
29 January 1992

W E D N E S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

- Security Council unanimously extends United Nations Interim Force (UNIFIL) for six months, until 31 July 1992; In a note by President of the Council, the 15 Members express concern over continuing violence in southern Lebanon..

- Security Council recommends admission of four new Member States to General Assembly.

- General Assembly to consider $200 million appropriation for UNTAC next Monday.

- In case of cease-fire in Somalia, negotiations can start, says Under-Secretary-General James Jonah upon return from Mogadiscio.

- Secretary-General appeals for emergency assistance to Horn of Africa; says leadership of United Nations is of central importance.

- Iraq stresses its compliance with terms of Security Council resolutions, urges lifting of sanctions.

- Further deterioration of human rights situation in the occupied territories in past four years, says Under-Secretary-General Jan Martenson, as Commission on Human Rights starts considering the item.

- "Grounds for hope" for least developed countries, says report by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

* * *

In a resolution adopted unanimously, the Security Council tonight decided, among other things, to extend the present mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for a further interim period of six months, until 31 July 1992.

It also reiterated its strong support for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Lebanon within its internationally recognized

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boundaries, and approved the overall objective of the Secretary-General, aimed at promoting the greater effectiveness of UNIFIL.

The Council also requested the Secretary-General to continue consultations with the Government of Lebanon and other parties "directly concerned with implementation of the present resolution" and to report to the Security Council thereon.

In a note by the President of the Security Council for January, Sir David Hannay of the United Kingdom, the members of the Security Council also reaffirmed their commitment to the full sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Lebanon within its internationally recognized boundary and expressed their concern over the continuing violence in southern Lebanon, urging all parties to exercise restraint.

The members of the Security Council also commended the Lebanese Government for "its continuous successful efforts to deploy units of its army in the south of the country in full coordination with UNIFIL", and urged all the parties concerned fully to support UNIFIL.

The Council also expressed appreciation for the continuing efforts of the Secretary-General to implement the mandate of UNIFIL and commended UNIFIL's troops and troop-contributing countries for "the sacrifices and commitment to the cause of international peace and security under difficult circumstances".

* * *

The Security Council this afternoon cleared the way for the admission of four new Members to the United Nations. The Council took that action unanimously and without a vote in successive meetings in which members recommended to the General Assembly the admission of Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Armenia.

In another decision, Council President Sir David Hannay of the United Kingdom recommended that the application of Moldova be taken up by the Committee on the Admission of New Members to the United Nations.

* * *

The Spokesman for the President of the General Assembly, Farouk Malawi, announced today that the Assembly will meet briefly on Monday, 4 February, to pass on to the Fifth Committee (Finance) and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) the request from the Secretary-General for an appropriation of $200 million, to fund the first phase of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

The Assembly will meet again - though not before 18 February - to take up the UNTAC question, and also to consider the appointment of two members of the International Civil Service.

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If the various parties involved in the conflict Somalia halt their hostilities, terms of a cease-fire would be negotiated following the provisions of Security Council resolution 733 (1992), Under-Secretary-General James Jonah said today. The resolution, adopted last week, calls on those involved to promote the process of reconciliation and political settlement, and for the expansion of humanitarian assistance to Somalia.

Confirmation was still being sought, he said, as to the position of General Mohammed Farah Aideed, Chairman of the United Somali Congress, but if a firm cease-fire were achieved, the Secretary-General hoped to invite the representatives of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the League of Arab States, General Aideed and Interim President Ali Mahdi Mohammed to New York for talks.

Dr Jonah said that to assist those most urgently in need of help in Somalia, $59 million in aid had been sought for the next six months. The delivery of food was an urgent priority and the United Nations had made several elaborate plans in that regard, though details still had to be resolved. Food was being delivered, but 7,000 tons had been looted. A proper food distribution network had to be worked out with the parties on the ground, lest the Organization find itself providing food for the militias instead of civilians.

* * *

Nowhere in the world is the leadership of the United Nations more required than in the Horn of Africa, where at least 23 million men and women and children are in immediate need of assistance, said Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali at the Donors Conference on the Horn of Africa held yesterday at Headquarters. In that region, he noted, people had been forced by conflict to flee from their homes; they had suffered from extensive periods of drought; were in need to be reintegrated as productive members of society; and lacked the resources to return to their homes.

Somalia, continued the Secretary-General, was but one example of deteriorating conditions in the area. The continuing conflict in the Sudan, ethnic violence in parts of Ethiopia, recent civil disturbances in Djibouti and renewed arrival of refugees into Kenya, not mentioning the dispute between Kenya and Rwanda, underscored the painful fact that the region's tragedies were essentially man-made.

The Secretary-General urged donors to pay the same attention to the non-food requirements as to the food needs, and to give their full support to the modest initiatives for recovery included in the appeal. The humanitarian situation in the region would be reviewed again in a few months, he said.

Finally, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali stressed that the funding request of just over $600 million for the next six months, contained in the 1992 Consolidated Appeal, was totally inadequate to meet all the relief requirements and covered only those groups in most urgent need.

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In her statement, Sadako Ogata, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), said that last year her agency's overall expenditures were at their highest level ever, at $845 million. An estimated $134.5 million would be needed, in her opinion, by UNHCR for the Horn of Africa in 1992.

James Grant, Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), said that the importance of non-food aid must be emphasized and that some $300 million of the appeal would go to those services and needs.

William Draper, Administrator of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), noted that his agency had some 40 years of experience in the Horn of Africa. Unfortunately, he said, the development structure which had been established there had been disrupted by various conflicts.

James Charles Ingram, Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP), said the burden of the humanitarian crisis in the Horn of Africa was particularly heavy on the Programme. Because of the long lead time required for the Horn, substantial shipment was needed to arrive in the region by April or May, he said. Therefore, donors needed to make immediate commitments, and he thanked the European Economic Community (EEC) for having already done so.

Frederick H. Weibgen, of the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), pointed out that the food aid pledged must be linked with practical measures to overcome logistical constraint and facilitate delivery. Survival was not enough; it was only a threshold at which other hopes could begin.

A. Tekle, of the World Health Organization (WHO), said his agency needed an estimated $26 million for six months to address the most urgent life-threatening health problems of that region.

Jean-Paul Fallet, of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), stressed that the situation in Somalia was of the greatest concern. After being forced to withdraw temporarily last year, ICRC had re-established its presence there, but it faced enormous problems. The agency needed support in order to avoid the human catastrophe of the worst order, he said.

The appeal, which calls for $621.6 million for United Nations activities covering 1 February to 31 July, includes repatriation assistance for hundreds of thousands of refugees of the region and people who had already returned to their countries of origin. A pledge of $20 million to the Special Emergency Appeal was made during the yesterday meeting by the Government of Sweden. The representatives of Canada, United Kingdom, United States, Italy, France and Germany, as well as the Observer from the European Communities, expressed their intention to support the appeal.

* * *

The Government of Iraq has always cooperated in implementing the measures specified in Security Council resolution 687 (1991), and it shall continue to honour its commitment towards those measures. Those established facts and figures prove that the continued imposition of the sanctions against Iraq on the basis on that resolution "does not have any legal or practical ground",

says the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, Ahmad Hussein, in a letter dated 23 January 1992 and addressed to the President of the Security Council.

Mr. Hussein also stresses that the Council is called upon to take, "in accordance with the very resolutions it adopted and the objectives set out in those resolutions", an unequivocal decision for the total lifting of the economic sanctions imposed upon Iraq. According to Mr. Hussein, the Security Council should take a deep and objective look into this matter, "away from the political objectives sought by certain countries".

He further states that refrainment by the Security Council from lifting the sanctions, at the instigation of certain countries, "will undermine the resolutions themselves and render them meaningless; and the Council will have to draw the right conclusions from such an eventuality".

Iraq also invites the Security Council to appoint a mission consisting of members "with no special pretext or objectives against Iraq" to examine these facts and present its conclusions to the Council. Iraqi is ready to receive any such mission and prepared to dispatch a high-level delegation to New York to discuss these facts.

The letter further details the steps taken by Iraq to comply with the measures specified in resolution 687 (1991), namely in the field of elimination of weapons of mass destructions - nuclear, chemical, biological - as well as on issues such as the cooperation with various United Nations inspection teams, the demarcation of boundaries with Kuwait, the return of Kuwaiti property, the repatriation of Kuwaiti nationals, and the cooperation with the United Nations Observation Mission (UNIKOM).

* * *

Since the start of the Palestinian uprising against occupation more than four years ago, a further deterioration of the human rights situation had been observed in that area, said Jan Martenson, Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights, introducing today before the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva the item dealing with the violation of human rights in the occupied Arab Territories, including Palestine.

According to Mr. Martenson, the United Nations organs dealing with the issue had consistently stressed the need to halt the dangerous trend and to arrive through negotiations at a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Itzhak Lior, observer for Israel, pointed out that since the Commission's last session, twelve months ago, many of the old misconceptions and prejudices against Israel had disappeared, clearing the way for bilateral contacts and renewed diplomatic relations with countries from all continents. He further stated that the Commission could contribute to the effort of current Middle East negotiations by offering encouragement and support and by providing for an atmosphere of tranquillity and confidence for the negotiators.

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El Ghali Benhima, observer for Morocco, said that among the people who should benefit from the new atmosphere of détente were the Palestinians who had endured more than 40 years of Israeli occupation. According to him, the uprising in the occupied territories was a natural response to a situation which was unbearable.

Taissir Al-Adjouri, observer for Palestine, said that repeated United Nations resolutions which denounced Israel's crime against Palestinian people were attempts to cope with Israeli acts of "affronts against mankind". However, he noted, Israel had refused to comply with international community's wishes and had not stopped any of the human rights violations perpetrated against Palestinians.

Al Sherif F. Sharaf, observer for Jordan, said that the Israeli response to the Palestinian expression of their legitimate rights to resist and reject unlawful occupation had been to resort to methods of daily subjugation against the Palestinian people. According to him, various United Nations reports had documented the extent of the killings, detentions and other inhuman practices perpetrated by the Israeli authorities.

* * *

There are "grounds for hope" about the prospects for the world's least developed countries, according to the 1991 Report on the Least Developed Countries just published by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

The report bases its optimism on the relatively high growth rates achieved in recent years in some of the 47 listed countries, and on the changing political and economic climate in the world. With the prospects brighter for settling long-standing conflicts, a peace dividend should result, the report predicts, from the redirection of resources, the resettling of hundreds of thousands of refugees and improved conditions for agricultural production.

The least developed countries have also initiated major policy changes to establish viable long-term growth. Public investment and expenditure have come under scrutiny and major fiscal reforms are being undertaken, to support the growth of trade and employment-generating activities. The report also highlights the impact of factors like gains in the purchasing power of exports, remittances from emigrants, tourism earnings and the spill-over effects of accelerated growth in neighbouring countries.

One-fourth of the countries have attained a steady improvement in living standards during the 1980s. The best performers amongst these, according to the report, are: the Maldives, Botswana, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Yemen, Nepal, Guinea Bissau and the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

But many of the least developed countries stagnated during the 1980s in terms of their per capita gross domestic product. Their development was further hampered elements such as the economic slow-down in the developed world, population growth and the effects of natural and manmade catastrophes. The per capita GDP actually declined in a number of countries, including Afghanistan, Djibouti, Togo, Sudan, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Haiti, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe, Mozambique, Guinea, Liberia and Niger.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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Prepared by Central News

DH/1069
30 January 1992

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

◆ Security Council Members meet to finalize draft text of Summit Declaration to be issued at Friday's high-level Council meeting.

◆ Secretary-General meets with Libyan Ambassador to reiterate request that Libya comply with Security Council resolution 731 on two downed aircraft.

◆ World population expected to double by the middle of 21st century - reaching 11.6 billion, according to recent United Nations projections.

◆ Special Committee against Apartheid expresses concern at continuing violence in South Africa, and also calls on European Community not to lift sanctions against South Africa, so as to keep reform process on track.

◆ Human Rights Commission, meeting in Geneva, begins discussion of right of self-determination; European Community representative expresses concern about growing intolerance in Europe.

* * *

Following what Council President Sir David Hannay called a lengthy "drafting exercise" yesterday, the Members of the Security Council met again today to discuss the wording of the Summit Declaration to be issued at tomorrow's high-level meeting.

While declining to give details of the draft text, which he said would cover three general themes, the Council President assured correspondents that the talks yesterday had proceeded "perfectly well".

He said that he had all the material needed so that the text could be redrafted to include points made yesterday by Council Members, adding that after today's consultations Members would be able to recommend the draft to their Heads of Governments.

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For information media--not an official record

The Secretary-General met this morning with the Permanent Representative of Libya, Ali El-Houderi, and reiterated his request that the Libyan authorities comply with the terms of Security Council resolution 731 (1992), which calls on them to cooperate fully in establishing responsibility for the downing of two aircraft, Pan Am flight 103 and UTA flight 772.

Ambassador El-Houderi said he would go to Tripoli immediately to deliver the message in person, and would return to New York early next week.

* * *

The population of the world is expected to double by the middle of the 21st century, from 5.3 billion to 11.6 billion people, and to stabilize ultimately shortly after the year 2200. This is one of the findings in the recently issued United Nations report entitled Long Range Population Projections: Two Centuries of Population Growth, 1950-2150. The report, prepared by the Population Division of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, provides long-range projections of population size.

The growth of the world population is projected in the medium-fertility extension to slow gradually thereafter, with increases of 89 per cent between the years 1990 and 2050 (to 10 billion), 12 per cent between 2050 and 2100 (to 11.2 billion) and 3 per cent between 2100 and 2150 (to 11.5 billion). In this extension, the population of the world ultimately reaches 11.6 billion before stabilizing.

The world's future population growth will be dramatically concentrated in today's less developed regions, according to the report. Africa has been and will continue to be the fastest growing area, with its population stabilizing - according to the medium-fertility extension - at 3.2 billion people, nearly five times its 1990 size.

* * *

In a statement by the Acting Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid, Guennadi I. Oudovenko of the Ukraine, the members of the Committee today expressed their increased concern at the continuing violence occurring in South Africa. The recent incidents in that country, according to the statement, appear to have been perpetrated by those opposed to the peaceful transformation of South African society.

The Special Committee calls on the South African authorities to take "firm action against members of the police and security forces who do not conform to establish norms in the maintenance of peace" and to ensure that there is no return to the era of arbitrary political arrest and detention of anti-apartheid activists.

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The Special Committee further reiterated its full support for the peaceful process which has been initiated in South Africa. Only through a peaceful and democratic political process, encompassing all parties and all points of view, will South Africa be able to emerge as a new society guaranteeing peace and justice for all its citizens, concludes the statement.

In another statement, also made public today, the Special Committee against Apartheid says that it considers that the decision taken by the European Community to lift the measures it imposed against South Africa in 1986 "weakens the leverage of the international community in promoting the ongoing process in South Africa through appropriate pressure".

The members of the Committee therefore call on the Member States of the European Community "to continue to exert appropriate pressure on the South African authorities to ensure that the ongoing political process remains on track".

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The Commission on Human Rights, meeting in Geneva, yesterday began discussions on the inalienable right of peoples to self-determination and its application to peoples under colonial and alien domination or foreign occupation.

Under this item, which was introduced by Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights, Jan Martenson, the Commission expects to consider a report on the question of the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination.

Also in a statement yesterday, the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Portugal, Duarte Ivo Cruz, addressing the Commission on behalf of the European Community, noted increased concern on the part of its members at the growing sentiments of intolerance and xenophobia manifested in Europe. However, he welcomed positive trends towards democratization which were to be seen in parts of Eastern Europe, Latin America and Africa.

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